International Civil Aviation Organization



WORKING PAPER

TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY SUB-GROUP (MET SG/22) OF THE ASIA AND PACIFIC AIR NAVIGATION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APANPIRG)

Bangkok, Thailand, 18 - 21 June 2018

Agenda Item 2: Review outcomes from previous meetings

REVIEW OUTCOMES FROM MET/S WG/8

(Presented by Chairman of MET/S WG)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the outcomes of the MET/S WG/8 meeting, including developments in SIGMET co-ordination among the States in the region, SIGMET deficiencies, format for special air reports and technical support to the Pacific Island States.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The eighth meeting of the Asia/Pacific Meteorological Services Working Group (MET/S WG/8) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 21 to 23 March 2018. The meeting was attended by 54 participants from 15 States. Mr. Chan Pak Wai, Senior Scientific Officer, Hong Kong Observatory, Hong Kong, China, presided as Chair of the meeting and Mr. Peter Dunda, Regional Officer Aeronautical Meteorology, ICAO Asia and Pacific Office, acted as Secretary.
- 1.2 To assist the MET SG in its work programme to improve the quality of meteorological services, but in particular, observations, forecasts, advisories and warnings; including facilitating implementation of the international airways volcano watch (IAVW) and international tropical cyclone warning system, MET/S WG/8 adopted the following agenda:

Agenda Item 1: Organizational matters

Agenda Item 2: Review of follow-up from previous meetings

Agenda Item 3: Planning and implementation of meteorological services

Agenda Item 4: Quality management of meteorological services

Agenda Item 5: Deficiencies in the provision of meteorological services

Agenda Item 6: Guidance and education related to the provision of meteorological

services

Agenda Item 7: Future work programme and terms of reference

Agenda Item 8: Any other business

Agenda Item 2 04/06/2018

- 1.3 A conjoint session was held with the sixteenth meeting of the Meteorological Information Exchange Working Group (MET/IE WG/16) on 21 March 2018 to address issues common to both groups including the implementation of SIGMET information and volcanic ash/tropical cyclone advisory information. This part is discussed in more detail in WP/XX.
- 1.4 MET/S WG/8 reviewed and updated its work programme, including actions completed since the previous meeting of the group (i.e., MET/S WG/7). This paper presents a summary of the outcomes from MET/S WG/8 for further review and action as necessary by MET SG/22.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 A copy of the MET/S WG/8 meeting report, and all related meeting documentation, is available at the following website: https://www.icao.int/APAC/Meetings/Pages/2018-METS-WG8--aspx.

Review of follow-up from previous meetings

- 2.2 There were seven (7) tasks (or action items) requiring further follow-up at the time of the previous meeting, MET/S WG/7 (March 2017). Five (5) of the seven (7) action items was complete, including the provision of updates on the status of corrective action for air navigation deficiencies in the MET field to the MET SG and APANPIRG, issuance of State letters and AFTN addresses in VAAC back-up tests, and the promulgation of results from SIGMET tests and amendment of the APAC Regional SIGMET Guide to align with Amendment 77 to Annex 3.
- 2.3 There were two (2) tasks (or action items) that required follow-up actions. They included (i) the appointment of experts from IATA and IFALPA, still in progress pending feedback from the two Organizations concerned, and (ii) matters relating to the issuance of special air-reports, which was yet to commence.

International coordination for improved SIGMET information

- 2.4 There was coordination of SIGMET issuance in a region of the North Pacific covering part of the area of responsibility of three States: Japan, Philippines and United States. The three States coordinated effectively on a bilateral and multilateral basis to issue seamless SIGMET information for a large-scale convective cloud system that straddled the boundary of the three areas of responsibility.
- Multilateral coordinated SIGMET issuance was arranged by three states, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, with support by meteorological forecast and observation technology from Japan and Hong Kong, China, which has been in operation since August 2017 to provide improved SIGMET service to users. To support the step-by-step integration of SIGMET coordination activities in the region, a trial SIGMET Coordination has been set up among Guangzhou (ZGZU), Hong Kong (VHHH), Hanoi (VVNB) and Hoi Chi Minh (VVTS) and Sanya (ZJSA) FIRs to cover the western and northern part of the South China Sea area since November 2017. Viet Nam also joined the operational coordination as a trial member from 1 January 2018. With the operational use of the SIGMET monitoring tool, Hong Kong China will further enhance the functionality of the system to facilitate further expansion of SIGMET coordination to other Meteorological Watch Offices (MWOs) in the Region.
- 2.6 The Collaborative SIGMET Issuance (CSI) scheme was also established by Japan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, which has jointly developed useful procedures and a common web-based platform provided by the Japan Meteorological Agency for multilateral SIGMET collaboration, is planned to commence in operational phase on 9 April 2018. The six

participating States adopted a joint statement on the establishment of the CSI at the Director-General-level meeting, held in Tokyo, Japan in March 2018.

Removal of deficiencies from the APANPIRG open list

- 2.7 APANPIRG/28 reviewed the status of air navigation deficiencies in September 2017. Based on the reported validation of corrective actions by Indonesia on deficiencies related to the provision of volcanic ash information and SIGMET information for volcanic ash, APANPIRG/28 endorsed the removal of the relevant deficiencies from the open list.
- 2.8 However, while other States have reported progress on CAPs, due to the lack of sufficient data to support the validation by ICAO (and States and appropriate international organizations where required) of the corrective action taken, a number of deficiencies have not yet been removed from the open list. In particular, in relation to updates on CAP implementation provided by Tonga and Philippines, with respect to dissemination of required volcano observation information and SIGMET information for volcanic ash, APANPIRG may remove the respective deficiencies from the open list subject to the concurrence of the Air Traffic Services (ATS) units, MWOs and VAACs concerned.
- 2.9 With respect to the deficiencies listed in Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Secretariat would coordinate with the States concerned to progress the reporting of updated information on the CAPs

Format of special air-reports

2.10 The different formats for transmission of special air-reports described in ICAO publications, Annex 3 – Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation, DOC 8896 – Manual of Aeronautical Meteorological Practice and DOC 4444 – Air Traffic Management was raised and a proposal might be required to standardize the format for special air reports in the ICAO documentation. It was agreed that the issue warranted further investigation, especially as APANPIRG has recognized the need for improved availability of special air-reports to support meteorological service. An ad-hoc group was found to further investigate the background and impacts of the issue

Support for Pacific Island States

2.11 The Fourth Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-4) Meeting and Pacific Islands Aviation Weather Services (PIAWS) Panel, was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands from 14 to 18 August 2017. PIAWS Panel had discussed coordination between the Pacific Islands member States on issues including the implementation of meteorological service for international civil aviation, and had considered quality management of meteorological services, competency of aeronautical meteorological personnel and development of an effective cost recovery strategy for aeronautical meteorological service in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS). MET/S WG would incorporate support for the PMC and PIAWS Panel work programme through the updating of the terms of reference and work programme.

Future work programme

2.12 MET/S WG/8 reviewed and revised the terms of reference and work programme document. A copy of the revised terms of reference and work programme document of the MET/S WG is provided at the **Attachment 1** to this paper for further review and action as necessary by the MET SG. The updated task list from MET/S WG/8 is provided at the **Attachment 2** to this paper.

Any other business

2.13 **Next meeting** – MET/S WG/9 was tentatively scheduled for 20 – 22 March 2019, in Bangkok, Thailand, including a conjoint session with the MET/IE WG/17 on 20 March 2018.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The MET/S WG works towards the resolution of SIGMET deficiency in the region, including keeping in view the development of SIGMET co-ordination effort and monitoring the issuance of SIGMET, especially for those States with deficiencies. Technical support would be rendered to the Pacific Island States. Other issues relating to meteorological observation and forecast, such as format of special air report, would also be dealt with.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 4.1 The meeting is invited to:
 - a) Note the information in this paper; and
 - b) Propose further updates to the terms of reference and work programme of MET/S WG, as necessary.

ATTACHMENT 1 – Terms of Reference and Plan of Work

1. WORKING GROUP	MEMBERS	
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2. DESCRI							
Objective	Improve the quality of meteorological services, in particular, observations, forecasts, advisories and warnings – including facilitating implementation of the International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW) and International Tropical Cyclone Watch (ITCW) – in support of the global air navigation plan framework and the aviation system block upgrade (ASBUs) methodology.						
Benefits	Improve the safety and efficiency of flight and ground operations.						
Terms of Reference	 Under guidance from ICAO APAC MET Secretariat: a) Identify and evaluate current and future requirements with respect to meteorological services, in particular, observations, forecasts, advisories and warnings, in support of the aviation system block upgrades (ASBUs); b) Promote the implementation of meteorological services; c) Promote the requirement for, and benefits of, QMS for MET services and competency of aeronautical meteorological personnel; d) Maintain awareness of, and identify new, meteorological deficiencies and formulate strategies to resolve these deficiencies; e) Continually seek ways to improve the quality, compliance against SARPs and operational effectiveness of the meteorological services; Monitor the implementation and use of products and services under the framework of the World Area Forecast System (WAFS), the International Airway Volcano Watch (IAVW) and the International Tropical Cyclone Watch (ITCW); f) Monitor the relevant activities of the MET Panel and appropriate bodies; and g) Provide advice and report to the MET Sub-group on the above issues for further coordination through the ICAO Secretariat with other appropriate bodies. 						
Work Program	 The work to be addressed by the ASIA/PAC MET/S WG includes: Review procedures for the issuance of meteorological observations, forecasts, advisories and warnings in the region and propose actions for their improvement to related performance objectives; In conjunction with MET/IE WG, investigate the deficiencies in the format and dissemination of meteorological observations, forecasts, advisories and warnings and propose remediation plans; Respond to the needs of the guidance and/or training related to the implementation of meteorological observations, forecasts, advisories and warnings and inform MET/IE WG of changes required to the SIGMET guide; In conjunction with MET/R WG and in support of the ASBUs, provide meteorological input for operational planning for specific phenomenon including volcanic ash, radioactive cloud, tropical cyclone, tsunami and space weather; Follow the developments in the States related to the improvement of meteorological observations, forecasts, advisories and warnings and provide regional input on these matters to relevant ICAO and WMO groups and to gather user requirements from ANSPs, IATA, IFATCA and IFALPA; Investigate options for rectification of air navigation deficiencies in the field of 						

2. DESCRIPTION

- Provide support for the ICAO APAC volcanic ash exercises; Report on its work to the MET Sub-group of APANPIRG; and Maintain a link to the Regional ATM Contingency Plan through the ATM SG.

3. COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES					
Description	Target Audience	Delivery Method	Frequency/ Date	Responsibility	
Work Plan	Working Group Members	Document via email and posted on ICAO Bangkok website	As required but reviewed at least quarterly	Chair	
General correspondence	Working Group Members	Email	As required	Working Group Members	
Working Group Meeting	Working Group Members	Meeting in conjunction with MET/IE WG	Yearly in March	Chair	
Status& Milestone Reports	ICAO Secretariat and Working Group Members	Report via email	Quarterly	Chair	
Working Group Report	MET/S WG and MET/IE WG	Working Paper	Yearly	Chair	
Working Group Report	MET SG	Working Paper	Yearly	Secretariat	

4. PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK FOR	4. PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK FORM (PFF)					
Tasks	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status	Milestone		
Task 1: Monitor and provide assistance to the regional implementation of meteorological observations, forecasts, warnings and advisories	2018-2020	MET/S WG	In progress	1		
Task 2: Track and investigate deficiencies in the format and dissemination of meteorological observations, forecasts, warnings and advisories and propose corrective action and provide information to ICAO and WMO groups for possible assistance	2018-2020	MET/S WG and MET/IE WG	In progress	1,2		
Task 3: Review WC, WV & WS SIGMET test results and implement improvements.	2018-2020	MET/S WG	In progress	1		
Task 4: Provide guidance and/or training related to the implementation of meteorological observations, forecasts, warnings and advisories, including input to the Regional SIGMET Guide as they relate to the Annex 3 amendment cycle and SIGMET tests.	2018-2019	R/O, MET/S WG and MET/IE WG	In progress	1,3		
Task 5: Provide input into regional operational plans as required for specific phenomenon, including VA, radioactive cloud, TC, Tsunami and Space Weather, with consideration to global ICAO groups and WMO developments.	2018-2020	MET/S WG and MET/R WG	In progress	3		
Task 6: Investigate, and implement as appropriate, options to assist States in resolving air navigation deficiencies in the field of meteorological service.	2018-2020	MET/S WG	In progress	4		

4. PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK FORM (PFF)					
Tasks	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status	Milestone	
Task 7: Initiate amendment proposal for ANP concerning regional requirements for 30-hour TAF based on information provided by IATA.	2018	Secretariat, IATA	ON HOLD	5	
Task 8: Special air-report – develop a proposal for alignment of format for special air-report in ICAO guidance.	2018-2019	MET/S WG	To commence		
Task 9: Cost recovery – assist the PMC with development of an effective cost recovery strategy for the Pacific SIDS.	2018-2019	MET/S WG	To commence		

5. MILESTONES					
Milestone	Accountability	Dates	Status		
Milestone 1: Report on SIGMET test results and regional performance to MET SG	Chair	Annually	On track		
Milestone 2: Guidance and educational material available	Chair	TBD			
Milestone 3: MET input provided for ASIA/PAC Regional ATM Contingency Plans	ad-hoc group	Next meeting	Recommend that this be closed		
Milestone 4: Reduction in air navigation deficiencies in the field of meteorological service.	States	TBD			
(Old) Milestone 5: Conduct survey on the implementation and utilization of WAFS and training needs within the ASIA/PAC Region and report to MET SG	Chair	Every 2 years	Recommend that this be suspended		
Milestone 5: Amendment to APAC ANP Vol II (Table MET II-2) to reflect current requirements for provision of 30-hour validity TAF.	States	2017	To begin		

6. WORK PLAN					
Task / Milestone	Accountability	Predecessors	Date	Status	
Activity 1: SIGMET TESTS					
Task 1.1: Review SIGMET tests (conjoint session with MET/IE WG)	Working Group	-	Annually		
Task 1.2: Develop action plan to fix identified deficiencies	Chair in conjunction with the Working Group	conjoint session with MET/IE WG	During meeting		
Task 1.3 Report back to MET SG on regional performance and action plan	Chair		Annually		
Milestone 1: Report on SIGMET test results and regional performance to MET SG	Chair	-	Annually		
Activity 2: GUIDANCE AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL					
Task 2.1: c) Review SIGMET pamphlets with regard to Annex 3 Amendment 77	Australia, Hong Kong, China, Japan and New Zealand (Rapporteur) in conjunction with	-	August 2016	Done	

6. WORK PLAN				
Task / Milestone	Accountability	Predecessors	Date	Status
	ICAO HQ and WMO			
Task 2.2: Monitor	China		TBD	Done
international development of	(Rapporteur),	-		
radioactive cloud SIGMET	Hong Kong, China, Japan			
Task 2.3: Review the draft guidance of	Japan (rapporteur),		June 2016	Done
tsunami warning in line with	Australia,			
Amendment 77 to Annex 3 and present	Indonesia			
the guidance to MET SG for endorsement				
Task 2.4: Review the regional	Australia		2018	Done
SIGMET Guide to be in line with	(rapporteur),			
Amendment 77 to Annex 3	Japan, Hong			
New (specific task): Prepare proposal	Kong, China and New Zealand in			
to include guidance on developing and using objective criteria supporting	conjunction with			
thunderstorm SIGMET issuance in the	Secretariat			
SIGMET Guide				
Task 2.4: Review the regional SIGMET Guide to be in line with	Australia		2018-2020	
Amendment 78 to Annex 3	(rapporteur), Japan, Hong			
Amendment 78 to Amica 3	Kong, China in			
	conjunction with			
	Secretariat			
	(New Zealand) TBC			
Milestone 2: Guidance and educational material available	Chair		TBD	
Activity 3: REGIONAL CONTINGEN				D. c. communication
Task 3.1: Get a list of	Secretariat	_	Next meeting	Recommen that this be
requirements/consult with ATM SG to determine if this is still required				closed
	Secretariat ad-hoc	3.1-3.2	Next meeting	Recommen
Milestone 3:MET input provided for ASIA/PAC Regional ATM	group		Next meeting	that this be
Contingency Plans	8.004			closed
Activity 4 – SIGMET Deficiencies	·			
Task 4.1: Review options to eliminate	ad hoc group		Sep 2016	Done
SIGMET deficiencies	#1: New			
	Zealand (rapporteur),			
	Australia,			
	China, Japan,			
	Indonesia, and			
	Hong Kong, China			
Γask 4.2: Monitor the provision of	ad hoc group #2:	4.1	May 2016 and	Done (July
SIGMET services from States with	Australia, Japan		2017	2016)
SIGMET deficiencies	(rapporteur),			2017 (to be
	Singapore and			coordinated with
	Thailand, in			RODBs)
	conjunction with MET/S WG chair			
	and Secretariat			
Task 4.3: Assist the ICAO Secretariat	ad hoc group	4.1	Ongoing	
in the facilitation of discussion of	#1			
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6. WORK PLAN				
Task / Milestone	Accountability	Predecessors	Date	Status
viable options with relevant States.				
Task 4.4: Monitor the implementation of the solution/s to remove deficiencies.	ad hoc group #1	4.2	Ongoing	
Task 4.5: Monitor global development on the establishment of a regional advisory system for hazardous weather.	ad hoc group #1		Ongoing	
Task 4.6: Report progress to MET SG	Rapporteur of ad hoc group #1	4.3	Ongoing	
Milestone 4: Reduction in SIGMET deficiencies.	States		2018	
$Activity \ 5-Proposal \ to \ amend \ APAC$	ANP Volume II, Ta	able MET II-2		
Task 5.1: Provide a list of regional requirements for 30-hour TAF	IATA	MET/S WG/7	Apr 2017	Done
Task 5.2: Draft a proposal to amend the ANP concerning regional requirements for 30-hour TAF based on information provided by IATA	Secretariat, IATA	5.1	Apr 2017	Done
Task 5.3: Ascertain whether the proposal has adequate support from the State/s affected	Secretariat	5.2	Apr 2017	Done
Task 5.4: Present outcomes of 5.1 to 5.3 for review by MET SG/21	Secretariat, IATA	5.3	May 2017	Done
Task 5.5: If supported, circulate the proposal to amend the ANP concerning regional requirements for 30-hour TAF	Secretariat	5.4	After May 2017	Done
New task: Develop proposal to amend the ROBEX Handbook to facilitate the exchange of routine TAF for locations where States issue routine TAF every three hours instead of the recommended practice of every six hours [Report of MET/S WG/8, paragraph 3.5 refers].	Chair, Secretariat and State/s concerned		As advised by State/s concerned	
New task: Develop proposal to amend ANP Volume III to clarify MET-related implementation planning guidance.	Chair, Secretariat		2018	
New task: Report to MET/S WG and MET SG on the background of the differences in the published guidance on the format and phraseologies used for air-reports and the resulting impacts on the transmission of air-reports by voice and datalink between ATS units, MWOs and the WAFCs [Report of MET/S WG/8, paragraph 6.5 refers].	Ad-hoc group: Australia, Hong Kong China, Japan, Thailand and Viet Nam (Rapporteur), assisted by the Secretariat		18 June 2018 (MET SG/22) 20 March 2019 (MET/S WG/9)	
New task: Cost recovery – assist the PMC with development of an effective cost recovery strategy for the Pacific SIDS.	Tonga, Secretariat		2018-2020	

ATTACHMENT 2 – Task List

MET/S WG/8

ACTION ITEM	DESCRIPTION	BY DATE	RESPONSIBILTY	STATUS/ REMARKS
8/1	Report updated information to MET SG/22 on the corrective action plans (CAPs) for the deficiencies listed in Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic Laos (i.e., AP-MET-09, AP-MET-11 and AP-MET-12) [Report of MET/S WG/8, paragraph 5.5 refers].	18 June 2018	Secretariat, Cambodia and Lao PDR	

MET/S WG/7

ACTION ITEM	DESCRIPTION	BY DATE	RESPONSIBILTY	STATUS/REMARKS
5/7	Confirm the MET/H TF membership contact details and invite IATA and IFALPA to nominate relevant experts for membership [Related to MET/H TF/5 Decision 5/4].	Jun 2016	Secretariat	IN PROGRESS

CONJOINT SESSION OF ROBEX WG/13 AND MET/H TF/5

ACTION ITEM	DESCRIPTION	BY DATE	RESPONSIBILTY	STATUS/REMARKS
8	Consider the promotion of the issuance of special air-reports to support information sharing, especially with respect to hazardous phenomena, in a consistent manner as required throughout the Region [Related to Decision (ROBEX WG/13-MET/H TF/5)/8].	Jun 2016	Secretariat in consultation with IFALPA	TO COMMENCE
